OUR REDMEN ASIATICS.

SUCH THE VERDICT OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION SCIENTISTS.

Government Expedition to the Pacific Slope Settles a Long Disputed Question —Finds Traces of Twenty Aboriginal Nations Scattered Over the Go den State.

"Unquestionably of Asiatic origin" is the verdict as to the California Indians rendered by a special commission sent to that part of the country by the Smithsonian Institution. Prof. W. H. Holmes, anthropologist-in-chief of the National Museum, voices the opinion, which practically settles a long disputed question, in a bulletin that is about to be published. He says that the aborigines now found in the Golden state came long ago from the far north, from Behring Sea and beyond, having crossed over from Asia by way of the "frigid arch" which affords a land passage interrupted only by a narrow water barrier a few miles in breadth.

Prof. Otis T. Mason, of the Smithsonian Institution, calls attention to the fact tha the shortest line between the Straits of Malacca and the continent of North America is a great circle passing northward along the east coast of Asia, across Behring Striat, and southward to the Columbia River, in Oregon. This was the route followed by the first comers to America. Not only was it the shortest, but it may be said that food grew in profusion all along it by the wayside. Early man was obliged to travel in those tracks which were marked out by nature and provisioned for his journeys. Water furnished the greatest quantity and variety of food for the least effort, and the same element afforded easiest transporation.

Travel was mainly in boats, of course. It is easy to imagine a company of the remots ancestors of California Indians setting out, thousands of years ago, from the Indian Ocean in an open boat for a voyage of 10,000 miles to the Columbiariver. The route was nearly all the way by sea—an inside passage through landlocked seas and sounds. It led through the Indo-Malayan archipelago, the South China and Malay seas, and East China and Yellow seas, the Japanese and Tartary seas, the Okhotsk sea, and Behring sea and its bays, the Alaskan sea and inlets, the Tlinget-Haida sea, Vancouver sea and the Columbia basin.

All of these marine enclosures swarmed with animal life suitable for human food. The East China and Japan seas furnished inexhaustible supplies of fish, water fowl, crabs, oysters, etc. In Behring sea there was no limit to subsistence. No sooner was a latitude approached where the rigors of the climate demanded extra clothing and fuel for the body than marine mammals and land mammals were superabundant. These early travelers would naturally avoid the deep ocean, which is a desert to the voyager, offering no food supply. In the shallows the landmarks were their lighthouses and the inlets were their harbors innumerable.

In California at the present time, says Prof. Holmes, are found remnants of 20 distinct nations, speaking as many languages. These varied ethnic elements, embraced within a region only 800 miles in length by 300 miles in width, seem to have been attracted one after another to the lowland and coastal valleys by the bait of an unfailing food supply. So formidable are the barriers of mountain ranges on the east and so forbidding the deserts on the south that few communities once settled there would ever take the trouble to seek homes elsewhere. It would appear that the peoples were caught like fishes in a trap—the way in was easy, but the way out was hard.

The Indians, or rather their remote ancestors, came from Asia by way of Behring Strait, because that was the easiest as well as the shortest route. On an ordinary map it does not look the shortest, but it is such, nevertheless, and that this is true may easily be ascerained by a brief examination of any geographical globe. It is considered reasonably certain by many scientists that the earliest beings properly called human dwelt not far from the Straits of Malacca, and that from there their descendants spread over the world.

One can conceive of a stream of canoes flowing for many centuries from the Indian Ocean and peopling America steadily from Asia by way of its eastern shores and seas. For 3000 years or more this continent was receiving in this way continuously a population. A great highway was opened through which the stream of boats kept floating. In every favorable place along the route colonies were dropped, and the nations thus started assumed proprietorship over parts of the highway. At length they shut off the stream of migration by declaring that it should no longer pass through their premises, and the flow of immigration to America being thus cut off, the ancestors of the present copper colored aborigines were left to obtain, through centuries, traits of their own.

Though the present aborigines of California represent so many distinct nations as proved by their languages, which are as far apart from one another as English is from Chinese, the character of the food supply and other local conditions applying to all have made all of them a good deal alike in respect to habits and customs. Generally speaking, the culture of the tribes of the Golden State may be said, as Prof. Holmes remarks, to revolve about the oak tree. They are eaters of acorns, which endless forests of oak furnish in unlimited quantities. They have almost no earthenware, few of them understand anything of the potters' art, but are the most wonderful basket makers in the world, their products in this line displaying remarkably varied phases of form, technique and embellishment.

Prof. Holmes examined several of their milling places, and describes one of them (a typical example) as a mass of granite rock, with many conical holes, some shallow and some deep. All about were stones for grinding and pounding, adapted in shape to the hollows, in which acorns were put for the purpose of reducing them to meal. This place of industry was covered with a rude shelter of poles and brush to protect the women, who are obliged to spend much of their time at such work, from sun and rain.

The acorn cracking outfit ordinarily consists of a round stone with a shallow pit on the upper surface, and another stone for striking, the nut being set on end to receive the blow. In the absence of such contrivanc the teeth are used for breaking the shells. The kernals, after being dried, are pounded in a hole, the resulting meal being winnowed in a flat basket. A basin is then formed in the sand, and in this the meal is put, the water being poured upon it repeatedly and allowed to drain away until all of the tannin is filtered out. It is tho tannin that renders the acorn unfit for food in its ordinary condition, but, after going through the process described, the flour, scooped out of the sand-basin with the hands, is sweet and wholesome. The Indians, who call it "byota," vastly prefer it to our wheat flour.

Mortars carved out of stone are sometimes employed for grinding the acorns, with the help of a pestle. Prof. Holmes found two ancient ones, of a globular shape, in the possession of an old miner named John Cannon. They were so highly valued by Mrs. Cannon as receptacles for watering the chickens that one of them was secured only with the greatest difficulty. They had been discovered originally in a mine, together with a number of sketetons, buried six feet deep in gold bearing gravel.

Near a place called Murphys the expedition visited a cave carved out of the limestone by water, which was entered by an opening descending almos vertically and expanding below. Skulls and other portions of human skeletons had been found there, and Pro. Holmes secured from the interior of the cavern parts of the remains of a huge animal, which, being taken to Washington, proved to have belonged to a giant sloth, one of those huge mammals, long ago extinct, which were plentiful over the greater part of this continent during the tertiary epoch.—New York Herald.

Is the Genius of Ireland Irish?

The genius of Ireland is a curiously paradoxical subject, and requires a study to itself. Though so many great men have been associated with Ireland, when we analyze them according to race we find that a remarkably large proportion of them are of English or Scotch descent. Bishop Berkeley, for instance, is often called an Irishman, though his father was English (his mother's origin is unknown), and though he always considered himself an Englishman. The great Irish patriots have usually had English blood in their veins, and have sometimes even been proud of the fact. And yet, while this is so, Ireland has somehow had the art of imparting some of her subtlest qualities to those happy Englishmen who have had the good fortune to possess some slight strain of her blood, or to be born in her land, or even to have lived there in youth. The greatest English humorists and wits—Swift and Sterne and Congreve—had this good fortune. In the same way, while Ireland has scattered her saints over England and the contitnent, her own patron saint in a Scotchman, who was never canonized. The contribution of Ireland to our national genius cannot well be stated in numerical values. —The Monthly Review.

Stonehenge Fenced In.

Stonehenge is now shut off from the public by a wire fence, which Sir Edmund Antrobus, the owner of the portion of Salisbury Plain on which the monument stands, is having erected around the stone. A charge of one shilling is made to visitors who may desire to pass this barrier and get a near view of the monument.

Arnica hails from Europe and Asia the medicine is made from artificial plants grown for that purpose in Germany and France.

TENT LIFE IN WOODS.

ESSENTIALS FOR MAKING A CAMPING TRIP DELIGHTFUL.

Why Women Are So Often Left Behind by Their Husbands—The Art of Becoming a "Dweller in Tents" and Returning to the Habits of Primitive Life.

"Simply because she needs so many frills, many a wife loses no end of good times by being left behind when her husband starts on his camping trip," said Prof. J. M. Vincent to a New York Tribune reporter. Prof. Vincent, with his wife, has spent many summers among the lakes and streams of northern Maine, and on the subject of camp life for the vacation both are genuine enthusiasts. "For people who must have luxuries 12 months in the year a first-class hotel is the place, says the professor, but if the odor of the forests is the sweetest perfume, the rippling of the waters the dearest music and beautiful landscapes more entrancing than the choicest art, a sojourn in the woods will be a long remembered delight. To such a meal from a good, clean piece of birch bark after hours of tramping and rowing will have a flavor far surpassing the richest feast served on rarest china and silver.

There are many varieties of camping, from living in the conveniently appointed cottage, "camp" only in name, among the mountains and streams of popular resorts, to becoming a "dweller in tents" and returning to the habits of primitive life.

In planning a camping trip the first things to receive consideration are the climate of the locality chosen, the manner by which the camp is reached and its resources in household equipments and provisions. A rented camp usually contains all necessary furnishings and utensils excepting bed and table linen. If bedding is supplied, it is well to supplement it with a steamer rug or blanket for each of the party. In the woods of northern Maine and Canada flannel blankets in which to sleep will prove comfortable, and after August they will be useful in most other places as well.

If the camp is easily gained by railroad, wagon or steamboat, the amount of baggage is not of great importance, but if the location is remote from such conveyances and only reached by canoe and carry, the woman who has the least baggage will find herself most popular with the guides. These men grumble bitterly at trunks or boxes, and large trunks are well nigh impossible in canoes. If a trunk must be had, it can be left at some central point on the railroad or steamboat line with the traveling suit and other effects of the kind. Heavy waterproof canvas bags (the Indians call them wangun bags), can be bought at sporting goods stores, and in them can be carried safely everything needed for the trip. With these a light canoe will transport several hundred pounds. The bags can be checked the same as trunks.

To avoid exposure from wet and cold it is well to be provided with suits of both light and heavy weight underflannels. Two short pedestrian skirts, with brilliantine bloomers to match, a warm jacket, flannel and cotton shirtwaists, two pairs of heavy boots, 10 or 12 inches high, and cotton and merino hose, light canvas leggins for damp weather, plenty of ribbons in which to "smart up," the usual small accessories, a broad brim soft felt hat and a Scotch cap (these do not catch on overhanging boughs), will complete the list of necessities for the wardrobe.

As to utensils and provisions, if these cannot be found at reasonable prices in the woods a supply must be taken along. For tent or simple log cabin life the utensils may be few. White enamelled ware for the table is to be recommended because it is neat in appearance and not breakable. A cup, saucer and plate, with knife, fork and teaspoon, for each of the party, two covered vegetable dishes and plates for bread, butter, meat or fish will be sufficient for rough camping. As to utensils, few are absolutely needed—at most, a coffee pot, two or three agate saucepans, a broiler, frying pan, bread tin (such as is sold by sporting goods houses for baking before an open fire), a small covered iron pot for baking beans, two or three sharp knives, a case-knife or two and three tablespoons.

Cold food is the bane of camp life, but this may be avoided by forethought. Aluminum hot water plates, if one cares to pay the price, are desirably light in weight, and many who camp yearly have one of these for each of the party. With them the meat or fish and vegetables may be kept from cooling during the meal and and grease in the gravy will not harden in unsightly and unsavory lumps before it is consumed. Hot water plates can be had in other and less expensive materials than aluminum.

Substantial food, with no fancy side dishes, will satisfy a hearty appetite in the woods, cornmeal, cake, bread, beans, potatoes and vegetables, with the fish and game obtained near at hand, constituting a variety suited to the conditions. An assortment of canned vegetables will be wanted. Of tinned fruits in July and August there will be less need, because blackberries, raspberries and huckleberries can be picked fresh in most places daily. A few tins of fish and meat may also prove acceptable on days when the fish decline to bite and the squirrels keep in hiding. A stock of flour, cornmeal, the cereals, condensed milk (the unsweetened kind) and dry groceries will, of course, be wanted. Small waterproof bags can be found in houses supplying sporting goods, and they will prove of the greatest importance that these be unfoods. The making of a fire in the woods is regulated by law, differing in various states, and it is of the greatest importance that these be understood before leaving home. If a competent guide is employed for the season no end of worry and labor will be saved, if he is, withal, a good cook. In that case he will assume all responsibility of making the fireplace, preparing the meals and washing the dishes (an odious task in the wilderness).

To make the kitchen range place two logs, or two little stone piles, three or four feet apart, and across them put two green birch, hickory or any hard wood logs, arranging them a few inches apart. This stove should be a foot or so above the ground. Under it start a fire with birch bark and any dry, light wood. As soon as there is a substantial blaze use some dry hard wood. A fierce fire can be readily obtained with birch bark, but it is best to use it only for kindling, because it leaves the utensils covered with soot and does not form a good bed of coals for broiling and roasting. To keep dishes warm while others are cooking the fire can be scraped from one end of this rude firebox and covered dishes be placed in a hole under the hot ashes. An open cave, dug in a few minutes in a side hill, is the best of refrigerators In this the butter, eggs and foods needing low temperature can be buried. If a flat rock cannot be obtained for a table a good strong strip of birch bark, tacked over some poles, will answer the purpose.

A spring bed that will rival in comfort all the patented arrangements in the world is readily made. Fasten together with nails a framework of poles, putting a strong crosspiece at head and foot. For the first layer select spruce poles the size of a broomstick, tapering at one end to the size of a finger. Cut these long enough to project at least a foot at each end, and put the big ends at the head of the bed. To nail these down will mean to make a bed as hard as a board, so they should remain loose, the extra length at head and foot allowing for sagging. Place these poles three or four inches apart. Cover them with a cross layer of coarse spruce or balsam or pine boughs, and above them arrange layer after layer of fine spruce tips, adding a final layer of the flat cedar tips. With a blanket over the whole, the bed is complete. For a trip where only a night is spent in a place a more quickly contrived bed consists of a strip of heavy canoe canvas. For this a strip the length of an ordinary cot bed should have a hem at each side wide enough to admit a strong spruce pole, and the poles can be rested on logs or on crosspieces nailed securely between trees. It is unnecessary to say that the stitching of the hem should be strong. When the company breaks camp the poles can be taken out and thrown away, and the canvas rolled up and carried along. Some people carry with them on such journeys an empty tick, which can be quickly filled with cedar tips and dry grass. Empty pillow ticks filled with balsam make pillows of the best kind. Waterproof sleeping bags are a great safeguard against cold and dampness, and are essential for long trips that extend past the summer.

Concrete Street Surfaces.

Canal street, New Orleans, is about 135 feet wide between the sidewalks. On each side of the pavement there is a roadway 37 feet wide, on which is all the traffic. In the centre of the street, there is a section 60 feet wide, which has been known as neutral ground, on which the local street railways have laid their tracks. Recently an effort has been made to improve the condition of the street and after considerable study it was determined to pave this central section with concrete. Accordingly a regular concrete pavement, such as that used in sidewalks was laid down, the bottom of which extends to the bottom of the ties upon which the rails are laid. Instead of being a solid mass, it is laid down in blacks with sand joints. Eight inch sand joints are provided between the paving and the rails to prevent spreading of fractures which may develop after a time. This also permits of the ready repairing of the rails, or renewing of bonding without great expense. The experiment of using a concrete surfaceway in streets will be watched with much interest by municipal engineers.

The African Red Kaffir always rubs his teeth after a meal with cold woodash from the fireplace, which accounts for the absence of tartar, and the fine color of his teeth.